



## Need a lift?

Powerlifting muscles the Event Center.

See **SPORTS** page 4, and a slideshow at [thespartandaily.com](http://thespartandaily.com)

## “Thou shalt not ...”

See **OPINION** inside.

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# SPARTAN DAILY



59° / 46°  
RAIN DEVELOPING

SERVING SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008

FREE SINCE 1934

### OPINION

*We're all  
so hungry  
to be thin*



By **KRISTIN FURTADO**  
Senior Staff Writer

Walk into any local grocery store, and stand in the checkout line. You'll be hard-pressed not to stare at a display specifically designed to profit off of your insecurities. Gracing the cover of almost every glossy magazine at the checkout stand are the airbrushed, ultra-thin models and celebrities — mostly women — smiling from behind a mirage of headlines touting miracle weight loss and diet solutions. These almost ethereal creatures are sexy, alluring and youthful and — above all else — thin.

“Respect Your Body Week,” has been in full swing for the past few days on campus — a series of events being held in recognition of National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. According to the National Eating Disorders Association, at least 5 million to 10 million girls and women and 1 million boys and men in the United States are struggling with an eating disorder. Yet in the wake of this epidemic, the desire to be thin only seems to have gotten stronger. While many experts are careful to say that the media does not cause eating disorders, to underestimate its powerful influence would be unwise.

One 2006 survey by the National Eating Disorders Association, which polled 1,002 female and male college students across the country, revealed that more than half of college students know someone with an eating disorder and that the majority of those who have them do not seek treatment. More than half of the respondents who had an eating disorder also cited a pressure to be thin as one of the reasons for their onsets.

These serious disorders are often relegated to circus sideshows for an entertainment industry that trivial-

*We herald the anorexic body  
but not anorexia.*

izes the affliction with the speculative “does she or doesn't she?” mentality — lucrative entertainment for a salivating public. Magazines relish showing front-page photos of disturbingly thin celebrity starlets with headlines that read: “Lohan still denies she has eating disorder.” Anorexia — which has the highest mortality rate of any other psychological illness — is set up against a backdrop of glitzy red carpets and Gucci dresses. Jutting hips and collarbones, we are told, are glamorous. And yet behind the glittering photos of these rail-thin celebrities and fashion models, exists the bleak reality of an eating disorder. We herald the anorexic body but not anorexia.

And if this perfect creature gains weight, God have mercy on her soul (which is not as important as her body). Back at the grocery checkout stand, just step on over to the not-so-nice tabloid section with headlines that read: “Check out the 46 best and worst winter beach bodies!” alongside unflattering photos of celebrities (mostly women) who have come dangerously close to looking all too human. Women are ripped to shreds because there's a fold of skin out of place.

One such recent casualty included actress Jennifer Love Hewitt, who was skewered when photos of her in a bikini cropped up in magazines and on the Internet next to headlines that read: “A holiday swim reveals Jennifer Love Hewitt has piled on the pounds” and “We

See **THIN**, Page 3



## They've arrived — for now

*Tour of California  
hits Stage 3 of 7 in S.J.*

By **JESSE KIMBREL**  
Staff Writer

Despite the possibility of rain, the cyclists in the Amgen Tour of California still had their spandex blazing in full force.

As the riders came down Santa Clara Street toward City Hall, it was Robert Gesink who crossed the Stage 3 finish line first. Tyler Farrar started the stage wearing the leader's jersey, however, he pulled out of the race due to food poisoning, according to a report on the Tour Web site.

Stage 3 out of seven took the riders from Modesto to San Jose, covering 102.7 miles. Riders made it clear that the third stage would be the toughest of the Tour.

Jelly Belly team rider Mike Lange, who finished 34th in Wednesday's stage, said the top cyclists were saving the energy for Stage 3 because it was the most demanding.

Rider Philip Zajicek of the Health Net Pro Team said Stage 3 was the hardest by far because of the extensive number of climbs and descents.

The 2007 defending champion Levi Leipheimer took the overall tour lead by placing second in Stage 3.

The tour started in Sausalito and continued north to Sacramento then back south through San Jose. The remaining 120-plus riders will travel through San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara until they finish up in Pasadena on Feb. 24.

The eight-day event covers 650 miles, and the purse is the most for any professional bike race in the United States, according to the Amgen Tour Web Site.



PHOTOS BY ANDREW HERNDON / SPARTAN DAILY

Top: Riders cross the finish line in front of City Hall, finishing their 102.7 mile trek from Modesto. Above: Dutchman Robert Gesink, riding for Rabobank, won Stage 3 Wednesday afternoon.

Aside from the racing, there was plenty of action on the City Hall grounds Wednesday. Many product sponsors set up booths to show off their latest bikes and gear.

Before the tour came through the finish line, Versus Television provided a play-by-play broadcast of the incoming action for the fans to follow.

“We are going to have a booth set up at all seven stages of the tour,” said Brad Mills, a representative from Speedplay Pedals.

Being just a few blocks from SJSU, some students stopped in to check out the race.

“This doesn't happen every day,” said Eugene Erfe, a senior graphic design major. “I am excited to watch the riders come through.”

Wes Thomson, a junior civil engineering major, said he enjoyed cycling and that he thinks “it's cool” that such a big race would come through San Jose.

The Amgen Tour of California is the closest thing we have to some of the big races in Europe, Thomson said.

“There's two huge bike races in the U.S., and this is

See **BIKE**, Page 4

## SJSU preps in case of shooting

*Public address system  
may be up by summer*

By **MICHAEL PASAOA**  
Staff Writer

What would happen if a shooting happened on campus? Would SJSU be prepared? How would the campus be notified?

“We're in the process of installing new speakerphones in every classroom, instructional space and office on campus that will automatically double as a public address system in the event of an emergency,” said Pat Lopes Harris, media relations specialist for SJSU president, Don Kassing.

Rose Lee, vice president of finance and administration, said SJSU is also looking to use the speakers on the blue light emergency phones on campus to get out a message in an emergency.

“We realize we need a way to communicate immediately, and the most immediate way we can all think of is a PA system,” Harris said.

Harris said the school hopes to have the public announcement system installed by the end of this term but that it still needs to practice and find a way for it to connect in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library and Campus Village public announcement systems, which are separate from the rest of the campus.

The University Police Department, however, can still get into those buildings through the internal systems and put a message out, said Larry Carr, associate vice president of public affairs.

“An exterior door lock-down system is still being researched as we learn from the experiences of other campuses that have had tragedies or averted tragedies,” Carr said, “and if a lockdown would help or hamper these situations.”

Four dozen top administrators, ranging from the UPD, Facilities Development and Operations and finance departments, meet periodically to discuss how to respond to an emergency and to practice different scenarios.

“I don't know if we've specifically done a session on campus shooting,” Harris said. “But it's definitely what we're talking and thinking about in everything we do.”

One idea is to send out a mass text message to all student and employee cell phones in case of emergency.

“We do not have Reverse 911 as an option, but we're looking into it,” Harris said.

Reverse 911 is a communications solution that delivers outbound notifications in emergencies, according to its Web site.

Harris added, “There are a growing number of companies every day offering this service, and we're trying to figure out a way to most efficiently take advantage and select the right vendor.”

“The biggest challenge is getting the numbers and keeping the database current,” Harris said. “Thirty-two thousand students and 5,700 employees is a lot of people.”

The campus emergency hotline, 408-924-SJSU (7578), would be used to notify callers if the campus is closed and to allow them to check back for updates.

“In our mind, that would be used more for incoming calls to leave messages,” Harris said.

Harris said she went to Philadelphia and spoke to the conference director of communications who helped during the Virginia Tech shooting.

“We want to learn as much as we can so we can improve and enhance

See **SAFE**, Page 2

## Learning a kitchen lesson (without a microwave)

By **ANGELO LANHAM**  
Staff Writer

Standing in front of her class, nutrition and food science grad student Jamie Kubota stressed the importance of knife safety, dicing and ski goggles.

Proper knife safety involves curling in the fingers of the off hand to prevent slicing the fingertips, and dicing, in the academic sense, is specifically quarter-inch by quarter-inch by quarter-inch cubes. The ski goggles were a gift from her husband she uses so she won't cry while chopping onions, to which she claims to be very sensitive.

It was the first of four free cooking classes exclusively for Campus Village Building B residents, held in the Central Classroom building.

Students from Campus Village Building B can expect more tips like this in the weeks that follow, as the class goes on until the “Iron Chef” finale on March 11.

“Participants will work alone or in groups to make a breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack items using a secret ingredient,” Kubota said. “We're going to have celebrity judge

s and prizes. It's all meant to be a fun way to implement and reinforce some of the things that were learned in the first three sessions.”

Students also learned that the key to detecting fresh asparagus is in the “flowers” on the end, the “culinary school” knife grip and that putting a wet paper towel under a cutting board cuts down on its movement.

“I want to get people cooking,” Kubota said. “They're not really cooking anymore, just frozen stuff.”

Some of the students slowly and awkwardly attempted to slice and dice their onions for their mango salsa.

“I've used the microwave, the oven, once, for those 7-Eleven chicken nuggets,” said Vinayak Ralakkattil, an undeclared sophomore.

After introductions, the students' inexperience slowed the beginning of the class a bit, and they spent most of the time chopping their onions.

About a half hour before then end of class, Kubota took over and went into demonstration mode, whizzing around the kitchen and whipping up the salsa while narrating to her



CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ / SPARTAN DAILY

Students learn how to dice onions at the first free cooking class for Campus Village Building B residents.

students.

“We didn't get quite as much done as I thought,” Kubota said, “but it was fun, and people were trying new things.”

Although Kubota has taught classes in cooking schools and su-

permarkets in Houston, she said this is the most academic course she's attempted to date, and the most hands-on by far.

In her classes in Houston, her students “just watched,” she said.

Junior animation and illustration

major Kristin Bell, interviewed at the class' informational meeting, said she was “nervous ... I guess this is the first time I've been in a program like this.”

Bell wanted to persevere, though, in order not to rely on the Dining Commons, and to be more confident in her cooking, she said.

Jamai Craven, a sophomore pre-nursing major, said she wanted to become a more proficient cook, although she can already cook some things, such as pork.

Not every student was a babe in the woods, though.

Liana Madison, a junior theatre major, said she has been cooking since childhood but said she is interested in cooking with meat, as her household back home never included “milk, wheat, dairy, meat or peanut butter.”

“It's the equivalent of Ayurveda Indian-like Holistic medicine,” she said. “We had a lot of soy milk.”

Madison said she does not miss these restrictions at all.

If the four-week class is successful, Kubota said, it could pave the way for a more expansive class open to the entire campus.



# SAFE | SJSU radio station would alert in emergency

Continued from Page 1

what we’ve already got,” Harris said. University Police Sgt. John Laws said the UPD has a total of 32 sworn officers, but there is potential for a minimum of two officers on duty after 7 p.m. or on weekends, and on any given day there is potential for 15 sworn personnel on campus. Parking security, also known as community service specialists, would not be used for anything that would put them in harms’ way, Laws said. Parking and library staff would be directed to seek cover the same

as any other employee on campus, Laws said. The only people sent in harms’ way would be police officers. Laws suggested that in an emergency, the first thing people should do is to find shelter and secure doors that can lock. SJSU has a Building Emergency Team made up of three to four instructors, staff members and other campus employees per building who are trained to help police evacuate. “We don’t have many opportunities to see them in action because we don’t have many building evacuations,” Harris said.

There have been trainings across the country involving the directors of police departments from the universities that have been victimized by campus shootings. Administrators and officers from our agency have gone to these trainings, Laws said. “I can guarantee you that 15 sworn on-duty officers for this situation is never going to be enough,” Laws said. “You can’t reasonably staff to respond to a situation like that without outside help.” The San Jose Police Department would come as soon as the UPD calls them, and considering the resources available, they would definitely be the ones the UPD would call immediately, Laws said. The “active shooter protocol” has been a part of the ongoing and continuous training programs of almost all agencies in the country since 1999, right after the Columbine shooting, Laws said. SJSU’s on-campus radio station, 90.5 KSJS, would broadcast emergency messages every three minutes but not until the university told them to do so, said Nick Martinez, KSJS general manager.

“We’re never off the air and always have a live person in the studio,” Martinez said. “But if it happened in this building there’s probably nothing KSJS could do because the DJ would have to get out for their own safety.” SJSU students can anonymously submit incidents of suspicious behavior to MySafeCampus.com, a confidential system that helps prevent crimes by distributing those reports within minutes to the proper campus authorities. Submitted reports can help identify trends and patterns occurring on campus, such as drug or alcohol issues or hate crimes, said Megan Levi, behavioral science specialist from MySafeCampus. Then measures can be implemented to ensure that the safety of that area increases. Last November, SJSU participated in Golden Guardian, a state program from the Office of Emergency Services, to practice responding to emergencies. SJSU’s involvement was directly linked to efforts to enhance the ability to respond to disasters like the one at Virginia Tech, Harris said. Carr said SJSU would need help from outside sources and agencies to help lessen or divert any disaster that may happen, to help save lives if a tragedy has occurred and to get messages out to the public.

## SPARTA GUIDE

EVENT CALENDAR

Today

LIVE MUSIC: VOCAL JAZZ

LECTURE: NOTES 101: CN U RD THS?

SUPPORT GROUP: COUNSELING SERVICES' LGBTQI

LECTURE: SCHOLARSHIPS AND STRATEGIES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

COUNSELING WORKSHOP: U-SPACE — YOU, YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR FUTURE

LECTURE: SMALL BUSINESS AND THE THREE 'E'S

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL "BLACK THURSDAY"

BIBLE STUDY

CHICANO COMMENCEMENT PLANNING MEETING

MOVIE SCREENING: "BANISHED"

**\*\*For general and contact information for today's events, and to see tomorrow's events, log onto thespartandaily.com**

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. **Submit entries** online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.



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*Japanese Restaurant*

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Menlo Park, CA 94025  
650 329 1799

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San Jose, CA. 95112  
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# Classifieds

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## SERVICES

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7	8	2	9	6	5	3	1	4
3	4	6	1	7	8	9	5	2
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				4	6	2		

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## TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Blackjack  
5 Dormant  
10 Play the trumpet  
14 Half a fronton game  
15 Tibet's — Lama  
16 Verdi heroine  
17 Mountaintop  
18 Tolerate  
19 Roulette color  
20 Drab, as colors  
22 Travel choices  
24 Garden tool  
27 Egyptian goddess  
28 Make more baskets  
32 Lamp cover  
36 2001 to Augustus  
37 In good time  
39 Lap dogs  
40 "Fernando" band  
42 Exploding stars  
44 Warms a bench  
45 Minds  
47 Shorten a skirt, maybe  
49 Herbal infusion  
50 Pointer  
51 Isolated  
53 Chess piece  
56 Earthen jar  
57 More courageous  
61 Graceful  
65 Ploy  
66 Wood nymph  
69 Ember  
70 Proficient  
71 Give the slip  
72 Food flavor  
73 Some queens  
74 Rips apart  
75 Sudden thought

DOWN

1 Salary limits  
2 Bread spread  
3 Swedish auto  
4 Outdoorsy types  
5 Spud st.  
6 Capture — Kazan  
8 Pie-chart lines  
9 Stadium levels  
10 Exiles  
11 Androcles' pal  
12 Comics canine  
13 Treaties end them  
21 Track event  
23 Not speak clearly  
25 Zen riddle  
26 Miscalculation  
28 Plains tribe  
29 Earth tone  
30 Caesar's river  
31 Brownies  
33 Curly-tailed dog  
34 Hinder  
35 Emerson opus  
38 Google rival  
41 Orphans, often  
43 Put on the block  
46 Nail a fly  
48 Pepper grinder  
52 Meditative exercise  
54 Roomier  
55 Brain messenger  
57 Snatch  
58 Country cousin  
59 Small land mass  
60 Tom Clancy hero  
62 Three- — sloth  
63 Rabbit kin  
64 Island near Corsica  
67 Recipe word  
68 — Moines, Iowa

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

LEGGS NOMAD YUL  
EGRET AMIGO OHO  
AGREE DATED YAW  
EXERT GHAULY  
FRAILER MEASLY  
LISTEN SCORN  
APSE ALARM GALA  
REAR ADO SLOE  
ENYA POACH TACT  
TWIST APEMAN  
AMPERE GRANOLA  
GUIDE SLAKE  
ARN NOTES LAPIS  
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## THIN|Media thrives on our insecurities

*Continued from Page 1*

know what you ate this summer, Love — everything!”

Last year, I wrote an incensed letter to the fashion equivalent of Ann Landers: Elle Magazine’s E. Jean, a self-proclaimed authority for girls “tormented, driven witless, and whipsawed by confusion.”

One woman, who complained about being overweight, wrote: “I want to be attractive despite my weight ... my fat shouldn’t define who I am! What makes me *me* should be the main attraction.” E Jean’s reply? “Miss Daunted, your drawing power — your major-league lovability — comes from the fact that though nearly every hour of your girlhood was hell on earth, and though your weight is now one husky headache, you end your letter with a defiant shout that your ‘fat shouldn’t define’ you. Auntie Eeee adores the irony (and adores you too), but come on, honey bun, your size is defining you. You wouldn’t know who you were without it. And the one sure way to find out ... is to get rid of it.”

“*Get rid of it.*” I couldn’t believe it. Her reply was the equivalent of suggesting a woman get a boob job to spice up her sex life. “C’mon honey-bun, it’s just a silicone hop, skip and a jump away from the best sex he’ll ever have.”

This person whom young women could go to for advice was merely an accomplice with a mass media that constantly, perpetually, unendingly tell women every second of every day they’re not good enough.

And the media seductively tells those women: We can help you accomplish perfection. You, too, can become the ultimate object of desire. Let us help you attain the unattainable.

We have become slaves to the fantasy — a pursuit driving women to starve themselves to death.

As any typical teenage girl in high school, I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t extremely susceptible to the images of girls in Seventeen magazine. I hated them, but at the same time I wanted so desperately to be them. Beauty was, for me, defined within those slick, perfume-laden pages. I imagined what it would feel like to see the clear definition of my shoulder blades in the mirror or the faint outline of my rib cage.

So, when you look at the 5 million to 10 million girls suffering from an eating disorder in this country, I don’t think it’s too far-fetched to say the media are feeding these distorted afflictions in girls. These impossible ideals of beauty are coming dangerously close to embedding themselves within our collective consciousness — where girls fresh out of the womb are told they aren’t OK.

Many young women, including myself, believe that happiness is just a few pounds away — and the media are complicit in keeping this delusion alive. They thrive on our insecurity and low self-esteem.

And I can’t help but notice the 8-year-old boy or girl staring at these perfect specimens from behind their mothers’ grocery carts in the checkout lines. The media will raise her to believe she has to look that way — and he will expect her to.

## The choir preaching back



**MICHAEL RIZZO**

*This Queer Life*

“In the beginning ...”

Later adapted to be “once upon a time,” it’s the classic phrase that begins all good fairy tales: the stories of mythical creatures with supernatural powers causing all kinds of mischief, and in turn teaching us — mere humans — our grandest lessons.

Ever wonder, what if no one’s watching?

### *Lamentations*

It was 2002. I was 17. I sat in a conference room at my Kingdom Hall, alone with three other men, elders in my congregation, their average age about 60.

I was a Jehovah’s Witness, and the body of elders had brought me up on judicial charges of porneia, a Greek word that means “fornication.” This was a hearing.

We prayed, and then the questioning began. I wasn’t able to respond. I could only cry and sob horrifically. Soon, I was off my chair and on the ground.

I locked myself into fetal position and wept at their feet. I beat the ground and crawled into the corner. I wallowed. Wretched and miserable. Guilty.

### *The Sodomites*

We can thank Genesis 18:1-19:22 for the modern terminology used to describe an act that everyday couples — both gay and straight —

make part of their regular sexual routine: sodomy.

God destroyed the ancient city of Sodom, the legend goes, due to rampant homosexual activity.

Some modern religious conservatives contend this was also the reason God ravaged the city of New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina. He is a deity of precedent.

But an honest Hebrew-fairy tale translator would not disagree that it’s possible God destroyed Sodom because its people were haughtily inhospitable, not overtly sexual.

Hebrew-to-English translations aren’t the easiest, especially when the Hebrew word “yadha,” as it’s used in this account, can mean either “to engage in coitus” or “to get acquainted with” — depending on the whim of the writer (and eventually, the translator).

### *Judges*

My interrogation with the elders lasted two hours. When I think about it long enough, I can remember it like it was yesterday. It was six years ago, this month.

They wanted to know whether I had ever masturbated, how often,

### *At least hell won't be lonely.*

when I started, where I did it, the details of my fantasies.

They were disappointed, I think, that I was still a virgin — it made things much less cut and dry. But still, my confession was masochistically honest, and there was no question of my guilt.

I told them fear had kept me from confessing earlier, but that for five years I had spent countless hours in prayer, buried in the Bible, reading church material, engaging in the door-to-door field ministry and

attending church. All I ever wanted to do was fight it.

I still loved God, and I was sorry. I told them more than once. Then I left the room, and they decided my fate.

### *The Mosaic Law*

Leviticus 20:13: “When a man lies down with a male the same as one lies down with a woman, both of them have done a detestable thing. They should be put to death without fail. Their own blood is upon them.”

In the surrounding verses, God also hands out death to any man who has sex with a woman on the rag or with another guy’s baby’s mama.

Elsewhere, the laws of the Old Testament condemn men who shave (“trim the extremity of the beard”), take blood transfusions (“eat blood”), play football (“touch a dead pig”), or wear cotton/polyester blends (“put on a garment of two threads”).

At least hell won’t be lonely. See you there.

### *Exodus*

While the elders deliberated, I sat in an adjacent meeting room and reflected on what I had just done. My shoulders loosened and my mind became weightless. I wasn’t pinching every muscle in my torso anymore, and I was able to breathe, deeply.

I prayed to God, and I thanked him. I thanked him for helping me to come clean and tell the truth, and for being my friend, no matter what. Now I would get the help I needed, and I’d be able to fix everything, I told him. Then the elders called me back in the conference room.

“It’s clear you are ashamed of your actions,” they said, “but you have not repented from your sins.”

They excommunicated me.

### *Contrary to Nature*

Romans 1:26-27: “God gave them

up to disgraceful sexual appetites, for even the males left the natural use of the female and became violently inflamed in their lust toward one another, males with males, working what is obscene.”

Grab a National Geographic:

Male bonobos engage in homosexual intercourse regularly as a public display of conflict reconciliation. Male flamingo couples have mated for life and even built nests to raise foster chicks. Two male penguins at New York’s Central Park Zoo have a healthy sex life together, despite plenty of access to potential female partners.

Beetles, sheep, fruit bats, dolphins, orangutans, ostriches, Japanese macaques — they all do it, and God don’t make no junk.

### *Revelation*

The destruction of New Orleans was not God’s plan to purge the gays. Adhering to the Mosaic Law is like saluting a bunch of almost prehistoric superstitions. And no act of consensual sex can rightfully be considered unnatural.

Too many people who read the Bible develop an irrational loyalty to its words — a loyalty that allows them to justify vilifying an entire orientation of people.

And yet, the lessons the book teaches are no grander than those taught in Cinderella or one of Aesop’s fables.

Is it possible that when we die, we’re just dead? What if God is just some notion someone put in our heads?

All I know is that I spent most of my life devoted to God, but when I looked behind me, there was only one set of footprints in the sand — and they were my own.

**“This Queer Life” appears in print the first and third Thursday of every month and online every Thursday. Michael Rizzo is the Spartan Daily project manager.**

## An intriguing story of incredible indecencies



**LINDSAY BRYANT**

*Column What You Want*

“In.”

“In” is a single-syllable preposition, commonly used to denote an object is “within something” or to signal a movement opposite of “out.”

In Latin, its origin, “in,” is used as an intensifier, like in the words “infer” or “induct.”

9:13 a.m.

In an early morning rush to catch the morning Amtrak bus back home, I was met by an obstacle more entangled than conquering Latin.

Instead of the normal routine — the bus driver tearing my ticket, handling my luggage and bidding me “welcome” — I walked into a battlefield.

In spite of my grogginess, the voices of two men arguing, and yelling in some instances, shot through me like an intravenous drug.

Insofar I could gather in that moment, I saw a 60-something, husky black man sitting in an electric wheelchair while the bus driver, a just-as-old, wispy, sweating Japanese man held a metal box attached to the outside of the bus.

Inquisitive, I approached. I stood alone with the two men next to the Diridon Station in downtown San Jose. The man in the wheelchair, with a deep voice and Southern inflection, passed his bloated hands back and forth over the joystick on his chair, as if pacing.

“Incompetent,” he said. “This man doesn’t know what to do.” He shook his head and continued to roll back and forth.

Insensible, the bus driver knelt beside the wheelchair lift that jettied three feet above the ground from the side of the bus. He grazed his hand around all parts of the metal

contraption. He was focused but frantic. “Not working,” he said loudly, holding the box as if he was going to drop it. His wrist was bent down. He looked up at me.

9:20 a.m.

Inside the bus, the passengers — I counted 13 — pressed their faces to the tinted glass. The bus should have left five minutes ago.

Insolent, the man in his wheelchair, barked about the incompetence

### *I walked into a battlefield.*

of the bus driver. I had been observing now for what seemed like only five seconds.

In spite of his effort, the bus driver continued to move the ramp up, never down, and never back in, which was what needed to be done to open a door above the ramp before loading the wheelchair on the lift.

Instead, pressing each button over and over impatiently, the ramp remained stuck. “Stuck” was how we all felt that morning.

“In! It needs to be moved in. Press ‘in,’ man. In. In. In.” The driver couldn’t read English. He pressed each button impatiently, setting down the box so often to see if there was something inside the bus that would direct him or make him understand.

Injecting help seemed only reasonable, finally. “Baby, help this man. I’ve been here since 8:45,” the man in the wheelchair told me.

Inexperienced in bus mechanics, any mechanics, I looked at the driver and pointed toward the train station. “We are very late,” I said, exaggerating the enunciation of the words.

Instantly, as if I had authority, but perhaps just a relief from the verbal lashing from the man in the wheelchair, he bounced into the station. Passengers began to filter out of the bus.

Inclined now, I held the metal box and looked at its three grimy buttons. The man in the wheelchair rolled next to me and watched as I pressed and held the buttons, and any combination of the three again and again.

Ineffective. The driver ran out

with two train station employees and a VTA bus driver in tow.

9:35 a.m.

Inert. We were all going to miss the train in Stockton if we didn’t leave by 9:40 a.m., the conductor said. The man in the wheelchair said he was going to miss a funeral in Fresno that afternoon. He was irate. Passengers interjected advice, none of it helpful. The ramp still was unmoving. The conductor called another driver to explain to our driver what to do.

In waiting for advice from the voice on the cell phone, the clash of civilizations ignited. Attacking the driver’s race and origin, the 10 or 15 rubbernecks (I still helplessly held the metal box) interjected their thoughts about his inability to speak and understand much English.

In the five minutes of cell-phone time, I was holding down the “in” button, and finally, thankfully, gloriously, the lift crawled back inside the bus. The passengers clapped and the man in the wheelchair said, “Yeah!

Yeah, baby! You’re doing it!”

9:50 a.m.

In 45 minutes, three Americans stood at arms-length apart in desperation to catch the same train and to get a man unable to walk onto a bus. We communicated, words were exchanged, but no one seemed to hear anything.

Ingesting the situation and writing this was all I could do on the bus ride, finally, back home.

Insight flourished, and my eyes, subtlety, seemed more open. That morning, “in” meant distressed, confused, suppressed.

“In” was angry, prejudiced, unforgiving and relentless.

Before Feb. 15, “in” was a simple non-confrontational word. From the outside looking in, words can mean much more.

**“Column What You Want” appears the first and third Thursday of every month. Lindsay Bryant is the Spartan Daily managing editor.**

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Letters to the editor must contain the author’s name, address, phone number, signature and major. Letters become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Only letters of 300 words or less will be considered for publication.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications or SJSU.

The Spartan Daily is a public forum.

## the DAILY QUOTE OF THE DAY

“If she wins in Texas and Ohio, I think she will be the nominee. If you don’t deliver for her, then I don’t think she can. It’s all on you.”

### BILL CLINTON

*Speaking of his wife and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to a crowd in Beaumont, Texas, on Wednesday.*



## BIKE

Continued from Page 1

one of them," said Brad Klipping, marketing manager of Giant Bicycles. He said the other big U.S race is the Tour of Georgia.

The San Jose Police Department brought in officers on bicycles and horses, and some on foot, to keep the event safe.

SJPD had to block off sections of the road, and, according to one officer, the payoff was worth it because San Jose got to host a big event that brought a lot of people downtown.

## Muscle madness

By ANGELO LANHAM  
Staff Writer

Competitors were scattered across the gym, jumping rope, hopping up and down and doing push-ups to get the adrenaline rushing for SJSU's first Power Lift Competition.

Held in the Events Center's Sport Club on Wednesday, students participated in events that included bench press, squat and deadlift.

Each competitor was allowed three attempts at each event, at their



JOHN HORNBERG / SPARTAN DAILY

chosen weights. The heaviest successful lift of each was kept and totaled, and the winner was chosen based on highest total weight lifted, proportional to body weight.

There were two weight classes: 175 pounds and below, and 175 pounds and above.

Each time a competitor faltered, shouts of "it's easy" or "you can do it" would burst from all corners of the gymnasium.

"It's highly competitive," said Sport Club coordinator Andre Clemmer, "but they do a pretty good job of cheering each other on."

Nnamdi Iwangwa, a senior kinesiology major who won last semester's bench press competition, walked away with the 175 pounds and above division's first-place trophy, weighing in at 200 pounds and lifting a total of 1,270 pounds.

Iwangwa, who has been lifting since he was 12, said he wasn't too surprised about his victory. He said he'd been consistently working out since the bench press competition.

Across the board, he lifted the most for each event.

"I'm gonna take this one to work,

too," he said of his trophy.

Manish Thinda, a senior business management major, came in second in the same weight class, weighing 178 pounds and lifting a total of 1,030 pounds.

"It was my first time," Thinda said. "It's quite the experience, but I had fun at the same time."

Clemmer, who organized the event, said the competitors were all SJSU students who signed up for the contest.

"I just wanted to do a lot more — introduce the campus to different fitness activities," Clemmer said.

Josh Almazan, a sophomore civil engineering major, took first place, weighing 155 pounds and lifting a total of 900 pounds. He also lifted the most in the squats event, 365 pounds, but was matched by sophomore kinesiology major Eric Hom.

John Meehan, a sophomore business accounting major, took home second place, weighing 172 pounds and lifting a total of 965 pounds, at what he said was his second competition.

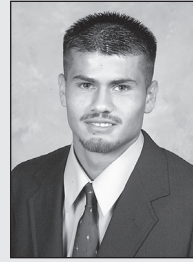
Clemmer called the event a "huge success" and said there will continue to be weight competitions each semester, starting with next Spring.

## Drafted by a pro indoor team, soccer star juggles next career move

By TARA DUFFY  
Staff Writer

Ismael Ibarra, who just finished his senior season as a member of the SJSU men's soccer team, was drafted last month by the California Cougars of the Major Indoor Soccer League.

Ibarra is 23 years old and said he has played soccer since he was 5. Ibarra is a sociology major here at



Ismael Ibarra, a two-year starter for the Spartan soccer team, had nine goals and three assists in his final season.

San Jose State and will graduate this May.

According to the Spartan's Athletic Web site, Ibarra was named to be the 2007 National Soccer Coaches Association of America NCAA Div. I All-Far West Region First Team.

Ibarra said that being drafted by a professional soccer team was a dream of his.

"The Cougars are a professional team, but it is a little different because they are an indoor team," he said. "My goal is to play professional outdoor soccer, but I am willing to take the chance and go try out with the Cougars and play with them."

The California Cougars are based

out of Stockton, and if Ibarra chooses to try out with them, and winds up making the team, he said he is unsure if he will move there.

Ibarra played for SJSU for the past two seasons.

"I feel good. I know I have done a lot of good things the two seasons I played here at San Jose State," he said. "It was hard in the beginning with training and all, but I managed to adjust to what the coach wanted. That's how I managed to fit in."

SJSU head coach Gary St. Clair said, "I don't think that there is a more dynamic player out there right now than Ismael Ibarra. He is strong and has a great left foot."

St. Clair said this would come in handy because "indoor soccer means you are right next to the goal."

He added, "I think the Cougars made a wise choice. Anytime you get drafted to a professional team it is a great accomplishment. Ibarra said St. Clair helped him out with some rough times he was having .

"I've had some problems during my years here at San Jose State," Ibarra said, "injuries and what not, but he has talked to me and provided me with all of his support, and so he's been really helpful with that."

Ed Brand, Ibarra's teammate at SJSU, said he thought it was great that Ibarra was drafted by the Cougars.

"He obviously deserves it," Brand said. "As long as he's happy, we're happy. We are delighted for him."

Brand also said Ibarra is "very calm and cool at all times, makes great goals, is a great striker, all-around good player. It was a pleasure to play with him."

Ibarra says that even though soccer is time consuming, it's something he loves and makes time for.

"It takes up a lot of my time, but somehow I manage to do everything with school and work," Ibarra said.

He said he plans on playing soccer until he "can't run any longer."

In case his dream falls through, Ibarra said, "I have my education to rely on."

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\*PERSEPOLIS (PG-13)-Oscar Nom!  
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\*TEETH (R)-10:00pm  
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(1:45), 5, 8:15  
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\*THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG)-  
(2:15), 4:35, 6:45, 9:05  
\*STEP UP 2 THE STREETS (PG-13)-  
(3), 5:15, 7:25, 9:45  
\*DEFINITELY, MAYBE ALWAYS FREE PARKING  
(PG-13)- (1:55), 4:25, 6:55, 9:25  
\*JUNO (PG-13)- (2:30, 5:10), 4:15, 5:20, 6:15,  
7:35, 8:30, 9:50; + Fri-Sat at 10:35pm, 11:50pm  
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